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## **Local Superintendents Suggest State Education Reform**

**LANSING** –Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, Grosse Ile Superintendent of Schools Peter Dion, and Northville Superintendent of Schools Leonard Rezmierski testified before the Senate Education Committee today. Their testimony discussed ways for schools across the state to save money.

“Long-term, creative solutions are in demand in light of the recent cuts to school funding,” said Patterson. “Schools need to be resilient through times like these, and quick fixes are not the answer. Both superintendents brought forward innovative ideas to effectively streamline our school spending and alleviate the strains currently restricting our schools. Ultimately, there’s a lot at stake. Our children’s education is in the balance.”

Dion agrees there are no easy answers to this very complex situation. “People are not in favor of increased taxes for schools, and yet, we want and expect a high level of service from our public schools. Once parents realize the final details of next year’s budget reduction for schools, there will be a public outcry for solutions to school aid funding. I am hopeful that we can push forward towards an effective solution.”

Rezmierski’s testimony followed. “These are challenging times, and, through these difficulties, we are readjusting what we must do to still deliver quality education programs to our students. When all is said and done, that is who will lead our future and this great state.”

Patterson is the Chairman of the Technology and Energy committee, Vice Chairman of the Health Policy and the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committees, and a member of the Judiciary committee. He was recently appointed by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to serve on the Legislative Council.

Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Patterson, Grosse Ile Superintendent of Schools Peter Dion, and Northville Superintendent of Schools Leonard Rezmierski testifying before the Senate Education Committee is available on the Senate Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/>.